

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 EB-11

OMB-01 RSR-01 /103 W

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R 131755 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SCSTATE WASHDC 4865

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 1349

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, EEC

SUBJECT: BERKHOUWER ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: EC A-76

1. SUMMARY. AT THE FIRST SESSION OF 1973-74 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, DUTCH MEMBER CORNELIS BERKHOUWER WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT ON THE FIRST BALLOT. TWELVE VICE PRESIDENTS WERE ALSO ELECTED. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST SESSION OF 1973-74 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OPENED AT STRASBOURG ON MARCH 13. THE FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS ON THE OPENING OF THE ANNUAL SESSION, REFERRED TO AS THE CONSTITUENT SESSION,

WAS THE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT FOR A TWO- YEAR TERM TO SUCCEED OUTGOING PRESIDENT WALTER BEHRENDT ( FRG, SOCIALIST). ALMOST ALL UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE 198 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT, SOME FOR THE FIRST TIME ( THE NEWLY NOMINATED GERMAN AND NETHERLANDS DELEGATIONS HAD JUST BEEN

SEATED) AND SOME FOR THE LAST TIME ( FRENCH AND IRISH MEMBERS WHO LOST THEIR SEATS IN RECENT ELECTIONS WILL BE REPLACED IN THE NEAR FUTURE).

3. THE SESSION WAS OPENED BY THE OLDEST MEMBER PRESENT ( BELGIAN MEMBER LEFEBVRE). HE MADE A SHORT SPEECH, THEN ANNOUNCED THE THREE CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT. THESE CANDIDATES WERE: BERKHOUWER, NOMINATED BY THE LIBERALS: SCHUIJT, NOMINATED BY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP: AND SENORA LOTTI, NOMINATED BY THE ITALIAN INDEPENDENTS ( COMMUNISTS). THE VOTING FOR PRESIDENT WAS BY SECRET WRITTEN BALLOT, THE ONLY TIME THIS PROCEDURE IS PROVIDED FOR IN THE PARLIAMENT' S RULES.

4. AFTER THE BALLOTS WERE CAST, THE SESSION WAS ADJOURNED WHILE THE VOTES WERE COUNTED BY FOUR TELLERS WHO HAD BEEN CHOSEN BY LOT. AFTER THE SESSION RESUMED, LEFEBVRE ANNOUNCED THAT 167 MEMBERS HAD VOTED WITH ONE BALLOT INVALID: OF THE 166 VALID BALLOTS, 84 WERE THUS NEEDED FOR AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY. THE THEN ANNOUNCED BERKHOUWER HAD 85, SCHUIJT HAD 71 AND 10 VOTES HAD BEEN CAST FOR IOTTI.

5. BERKHOUWER THEN TOOK THE CHAIR AND, SPEAKING FROM A PREPARED TEXT, EXPRESSED HIS THANKS AND PAID TRIBUTE TO LEFEBVRE AND BEHRENDT. HE THEN SPOKE FOR SEVERAL MINUTES EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE TO THE PARLIAMENT OF THE ' COMMON MAN IN EUROPE' AND SAID THE PARLIAMENT MUST SEEK A CONTINUING THREE- WAY DIALOGUE WITH THE COUNCIL AND THE COMMISSION. EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI RESPONDED. HE CONGRATULATED THE NEW PRESIDENT AND SAID THE COMMISSION WISHED TO WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH THE PARLIAMENT IN THE IMPORTANT TASKS AHEAD.

6. THE PARLIAMENT THEN TURNED TO THE ELECTION OF ITS VICE PRESIDENTS. SINCE THERE WERE 12 NOMINATIONS FOR THE 12 POSTS, AND NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS OR DISCUSSION, THE 12 WERE DECLARED ELECTED. THEY ARE ( IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE): BERSANI, ITALIAN CD: BEHRENDT, GERMAN SOCIALIST: BESSBOROUGH, BRITISH CONSERVATIVE: RIBIERE, FRENCH UDE ( GAULLIST): BURGBACHER, GERMAN CD: CORONA, ITALIAN SOCIALIST: ESMONDEN IRISH CD ( HE WAS NOT A CANDIDATE IN THE RECENT IRISH ELECTION AND HE WILL THEREFORE SOON BE REPLACED):

DALSAGER, DANISH SOCIALIST: DEWULF, BELGIAN CDC LUCIUS, LUXEM-  
BOURGER CD: WOHLFAHRT, GERMAN SOCIALIST: COLIN, FRENCH CD.  
GREENWALD  
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UNCLASSIFIED

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** BERKHOUWER ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV  
**To:** SCSTATE INFO BONN  
BRUSSELS UNN  
COPENHAGEN  
DUBLIN  
LONDON  
LUXEMBOURG  
PARIS

ROME  
THE HAGUE  
STRASBOURG

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